

Standard Oil people informed Penrose that they intend to support the Democratic party unless I call a halt in the suits begun against the Standard Oil people, notably, a suit which Moody is inclined to recommend; and they gave the same reason as Harriman, namely, that rather than have an administration such as the present they would prefer to have an administration of Bryans and Hearsts, because they could make arrangements with them—they did not use the naked brutality of language which Harriman used, but they did state in substance that they could bring about favors they needed."

A valiant but unsuccessful effort was made by the President in 1906 to advance the cause of simplified spelling by committing the Government to the adoption of the system. On August 27, he sent an order to the Public Printer to use the system in all public documents thenceforward. The order was obeyed, and among the documents thus printed was the President's special message describing the results of his visit to the Isthmus of Panama and the canal in November, 1906, as noted in a previous chapter. The reform was not acceptable to Congress, however, and so much hostility was manifested that the President said that if the House would go on record against it he would rescind his order to the Public Printer. The House passed a resolution to that effect, and on December 13, the President rescinded the order. Brander Matthews, of New York, one of the chief advocates of the reform,

wrote to the
President remonstrating with him for
abandoning the ef-
fort, and to him the President replied on
December 16:
"I could not by fighting have kept the new
spelling in, and
it was evidently worse than useless to go into
an undignified
contest when I was beaten. Do you know
that the one
word as to which I thought the new spelling
was wrong—
thru—was more responsible than anything else
for our dis-
comfiture? But I am mighty glad I did the
thing anyhow.
In my own correspondence I shall continue
using the new
spelling."